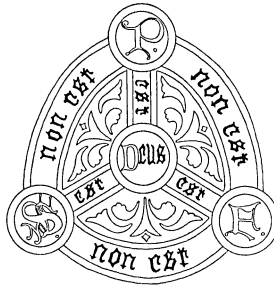


# LORD'S DAY

October 3, 2021



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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*Upon entering the sanctuary, please be sensitive  
to the congregation's preparation for worship, and please make sure  
all electronic devices are turned off or set to silent mode.*

## **-DRAWING NEAR TO GOD-**

### **Welcome and Silent Prayer**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts this day such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed our every hope and desire; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 66.1-4

### **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **\*Song of Praise to God**

*Hymn No. 26*

*TELL OUT, MY SOUL, THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD*

## **-HAVING OUR HEARTS CLEANSED-**

### **Confession of Sin**

O Lord, we long to enter your presence and worship you face to face, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, encouraged by your steadfast love. Yet there is often a coldness in our hearts, a hardness and an unwillingness to admit our sin and need of you. Forgive us, for Jesus' sake. Come near and strengthen us until Christ reigns supreme within; in every thought, word, and deed. Give us a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and always clings to the cross; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Silently add your own confession of sin.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Colossians 1.21-22

## \*Song of Praise to Christ

*Hymn No. 173*

*PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!*

### Confession of Faith

What is effectual calling?

**Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit,<sup>1</sup> by which, convincing us of our sin and misery,<sup>2</sup> enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>3</sup> and renewing our wills,<sup>4</sup> he persuades and enables us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.<sup>5</sup>**

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, No. 31

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<sup>1</sup> "...who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began" (2 Tim 1.9). "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess 2.13-14).

<sup>2</sup> "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2.37).

<sup>3</sup> "...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (Acts 26.18).

<sup>4</sup> "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules" (Ezek 36.26-27).

<sup>5</sup> "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me" (Jn 6.44-45). "...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Ph 2.13).

## Prayer for the Church and the World

### -ATTENDING TO THE WORD-

#### Sermon

“The Challenge of Faith”

2 Kings 6.1-23

Rev. Ron Gonzales

#### \*Song of Response

*Hymn No. 679*

*'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS*

### Worship of God with Tithes and Offerings

*\*DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Words Thomas Ken, 1709; music Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

## **-OBSERVING THE SACRAMENT-**

### **The Lord's Supper**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper by coming forward (generally from the back of the sanctuary to the front, though you may commune at any time) and partaking of the bread and the cup. Wine is served in the inner rings of each tray; grape juice in the outer ring. We warmly invite to the Table all baptized Christians, who are living under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Christ alone for salvation. If this does not describe you, we are glad you are here and commend to you the following prayers for your use during this time.

#### *A Prayer for those Searching for the Truth*

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise. Amen.

#### *A Prayer of Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### *A Prayer for those Struggling with Sin*

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false pleasure to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

### **\*Song of Thanksgiving**

*Hymn No. 455*

*AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN*

## -GOING FORTH TO SERVE-

**Benediction**

2 Corinthians 13.14

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### **Gatherings**

*A Children's Catechism Class*, taught by Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder, meets every other Wednesday afternoon, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, at the church. This fall the class is studying Qs 38-52 of the New City Catechism. For more information, talk to Pastor Ron.

*Home Fellowship Group*, led by Pastor Ron, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Chad and Heidi Leinweber's, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. They are studying 2 Kings and all are welcome.

*The Men's Group* meets Fridays, from 6:00 to 7:00 AM, in the Coffee Hour room. They are going through a series, led by Kirk Alden, entitled "Leading by the Book," in which fifty-two leadership principles related to personal development, relationships, and life skills are studied from a biblical perspective. All men and older sons are invited.

*A Men's Leadership Bible Study*, led by Kirk Alden, meets at Tate's Umapine Mercantile on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. All men are invited. For more information, talk to Kirk.

*Prayer Meeting*: We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 5:15 PM in the sanctuary, to pray for one another, for the kingdom, and the world. Please join us.

*The Covenant Women's Study*, led by Chris McBean, is studying 1 John on Wednesdays, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, in the Coffee Hour room. All women are invited.

**Sermon Notes: "The Challenge of Faith" (2 Kings 6.1-23)**

## **Prayer Concerns**

*Afghanistan:* Pray for the Americans and our Afghan partners who are trying to leave Afghanistan, that they are safe and are soon able to depart.

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church:* Rev. Craig Harris is planting a church in Yakima. Pray for God's blessings as he gives himself to this work, and that the Lord leads him to many who are hungry to hear and respond to the gospel.

*Chris & Mary Granberry (White Swan):* Pray for the Granberrys and the Sacred Road team as they minister to the Yakama people, that God uses them to convey the love of Christ to many, and that through their witness a great number on the reservation come to know and grow in the Savior.

*The God of Our Salvation:* Isaiah writes, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation" (Is 12.2). In addition to healing, pray that this week *Sandy Cupolillo, Andrew & Jenni Early, Mike Givens, Tom Manning,* and *Rick & Vickie Myers* know God's strength and are filled with his peace.

*The Persecuted Church:* There are 1.4 million Christians out of 34 million people in *Saudi Arabia*, a nation whose strict branch of Islam governs every aspect of life. Openly practicing other religions is illegal. All Saudi citizens are required to be Muslim, and non-citizens of other faiths may only worship privately. Those who convert from Islam to Christianity are shunned by family and community. Pray for isolated believers who lack fellowship and opportunity for spiritual nurture and growth. Pray that Christian Saudis find ways to share the gospel with their own families. And pray that many Muslim Saudis come to trust in Christ as their Savior.

## **Announcements**

*Sunday Evening Worship & Cultural Engagement:* Beginning October 10, we are adding an evening service on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:00 to 7:15 PM. We will enjoy a brief time of worship followed by teaching and discussion of issues relevant to our society's cultural moment. Initially, Pastor Ron and Elder Jacob Schroeder will be leading a study on human sexuality, based on the report adopted by our General Assembly this past June. (Reports can be found on the literature table.) The service will be held in the sanctuary, and children are welcome.

### **Explanation of the Cover Symbol**

The Shield of the Holy Trinity is frequently found in stained glass windows of medieval churches. This emblem expresses the Christian doctrine of the triunity of Almighty God, a truth taught in Scripture and affirmed by the Council of Constantinople in AD 381.